



CITY OF LONG BEACH

Press Release

June 22, 2007

Contact: Darryl Sexton, MD
City Health Officer
(562) 570 - 4013 phone
(562) 619-3962 cell phone
(562) 570 - 4049 fax

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST HUMAN CASE IN STATE

Long Beach- The first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in California for 2007 has been reported by State Health Officials. A 21-year-old Kern County woman has tested positive for WNV infection. The woman's symptoms include fever, headache and body aches. She was not hospitalized. Although WNV has not been documented in the City of Long Beach this season, the virus has been detected in 13 of California's 58 counties, including Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego. With the onset of warmer weather creating an ideal environment for mosquito breeding, Public Health Officials at the City of Long Beach are urging residents to protect themselves and their families from the virus by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Mosquitoes can breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected ponds, birdbaths, fountains, buckets, old tires or anything that can hold water. Dumping or draining water will interrupt the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors
- Use mosquito repellant with containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Residents should follow instructions on the label. Consult with your child's pediatrician for appropriate concentrations of DEET to be used on children under the age of two.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes and check to make sure your window screens are in good condition.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain water from pool covers.
- Limit the watering of lawns and outdoor plants to twice a week to avoid run off to gutters and around sprinklers.
- Report dead birds and dead tree squirrels to the California Department of Health Services by calling 1-877-WNV-Bird or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For further information, contact the City of Long Beach DHHS, Vector Control Program at (562) 570-4132 or online at www.longbeach.gov/health.

Further information about the WNV may be obtained at the State of California Department of Health Services website at www.westnile.ca.gov, or at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile.

DRAFT

#